

Career Exploration Tips



- Realize that career transition is a process. Respect that.
- Spend time in the process. The more you put into it, the better the outcome for you.
- Read books like:
 - Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton
 - What Color Is Your Parachute* by Richard Nelson Bolles
 - Wishcraft: How To Get What You Really Want* by Barbara Sher and Annie Gottlieb
- Be curious. Ask lots of questions; keep your mind open to possibilities.
- LISTEN! Listen to your heart, your gut. Take what's true for you and leave behind the rest.
- Update your computer-related job search skills.
- Know that many of your skills are relevant and will transfer to a variety of jobs.
- Interview people who are working at a job or in the field you are interested in.
- Whenever possible, try a career first. Volunteer. Job shadow.
- Prevent obsolescence. Keep your qualifications up-to-date and marketable.
- Network forever. Do informational interviews.
- Be confident. Believe in yourself and your abilities.
- Set goals with a timeline of both short term and long term objectives.
- Activate your plan.

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Career Exploration Websites



- 1) [CollegeInColorado.org](https://secure.collegeincolorado.org/)
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Free and comprehensive; provides everything you need to know about career exploration and planning. Determine your interests, skills, and work values and use them to find career options that are right for you.
- 2) [Colorado LMI Gateway](https://www.colmigateway.com/vosnet/Default.aspx) (<https://www.colmigateway.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>)
Provides current labor market, industry, and occupation information.
- 3) [MySkills myFuture](http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/) (<http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>)
Find out how your skills transfer to other jobs; helps you identify what other jobs use some of the same skills.
- 4) [StrengthsFinder 2.0](http://strengths.gallup.com/default.aspx) (<http://strengths.gallup.com/default.aspx>)
Online personal assessment which will outline your strengths; By focusing on building strengths rather than focusing on weaknesses, you may be able to find suitable positions in the workplace where you can acquire the necessary skills easily and improve your overall performance and job satisfaction. Fee involved.

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